

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK

**SPECIAL SESSION
December 10, 2002**

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County met in a Special Joint Session with the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission at 12:10 p.m., December 10, 2002, in the Lobby Conference Room, 411 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Fulton Brock, Vice Chairman; Andy Kunasek, and Max W. Wilson. Absent: Don Stapley, Chairman; and Mary Rose Wilcox. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission present were Laurel Arndt, Jerry Aster, Celeste Hamilton, Robert Jones, William Lanford, Chairman; Anne Lynch, Pat Schneider, Isaac Serna, Jack Stapley and Franklin Vasos, Sr. Commission members absent: Bill Bedoya, Norma Miller and Lamar Whitmer. Also present: Bill Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department; Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney; Terry Eckhardt, Deputy County Attorney; and Natalie Gilstrap, Administrative Coordinator/Recorder.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lanford called the meeting to order at 12:10 and roll call was taken, see above.

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Item: Director's report, William C. Scalzo, Director.

Bill Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, discussed the proposed north valley annexation by the city of Phoenix and referred the Commissioners to the newspaper articles distributed in their mail. Mr. Scalzo invited Supervisor Kunasek to comment on new developments of this issue.

Supervisor Kunasek spoke briefly on the history of the proposed annexation of lands in the vicinity of the north I-17 Corridor by the cities of Phoenix and Peoria. He explained the County's application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to acquire almost 15,000 acres of land along the north I-17 Corridor for the purpose of preservation. He stated that when the cities finalized their annexation agreement, it included a great deal of the north area that the County hoped to preserve. He expressed concern that the cities did not consider the impact of their proposed annexation on the parks and open spaces of the County.

He indicated that about a year ago the County had requested the cities to drop their consideration of annexing this land. He explained that an agreement had been reached with Phoenix Mayor Rimsza and Councilman Siebert to abandon their annexation plan if the County's application to the BLM was successful, and to allow Maricopa County to manage the land. He added that the City of Phoenix had nevertheless continued with their plans for annexation, and it became clear that their commitment or agreement with the County had been forgotten. In discussing the Peoria annexation, he indicated that he did not think the City of Peoria took into consideration the law that was passed last year prohibiting them from annexing the remainder of Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

Supervisor Kunasek discussed efforts made to organize a coalition to bring this issue to the public's awareness and to the attention of other decision makers. He indicated that the final Selection Board, the body that determines whether or not municipalities can annex State lands, is comprised of the Governor, the Treasurer and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona. He reported that both the Maricopa and Yavapai County Board of Supervisors had appealed the cities' actions to the Selection Board and the Counties had prevailed.

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He also indicated that he would like to proceed with the Recreation and Public Purposes (RPP) application and acquire those lands under the Preserve Initiative with State Land Department. He expressed his desire to see a meaningful, open space swath of land from Lake Pleasant to the Tonto National Forest.

Director Scalzo reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the contract with EPG, Inc. on November 20, 2002 for the San Tan Mountains Regional Park Master Plan. He indicated that the consultant has already started the planning process and was present at the San Tan Open House, which had been a great success. He said that approximately 1200 people attended, including several members of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Scalzo invited Supervisors Brock and Wilson to comment on the Open House from their perspectives.

Supervisor Brock stated that he thought the Open House had gone very well and that developing some amenities at San Tan Park would make it a great addition to the County's park system. He mentioned the many activities that would be available to residents, including horse rides, hayrides, exhibits, displays and volunteer groups. He expressed his thanks to the Department of Transportation for their assistance in providing electronic equipment for the event.

Supervisor Wilson indicated that the Open House had been very well done and the Parks Department had done a great job.

Supervisor Wilson also commented on Supervisor Kunasek's efforts with regard to the annexation plans proposed by the cities of Phoenix and Peoria. He expressed his gratitude to Supervisor Kunasek and praised his efforts on behalf of the Parks Department.

Director Scalzo reported that the RV Dump Station Project at the Cave Creek Recreation Area is moving along well and is proceeding according to the timeline.

Director Scalzo briefly highlighted several points in the department's Final Fiscal Report for the year. He indicated that the "good news" is that the Department spent less money than was allocated, which means there was a surplus. He also stated that revenues were up and expenditures were down. He commented on the department's efforts to steadily improve its ability to acquire grants and to find new and innovative ways to fund activities. He reiterated that the department's goal this year is to fund 80% of the budget with non-general fund dollars.

Director Scalzo recognized two Parks Department employees. Bob Ingram, Eastside Superintendent, was recently profiled in the Arizona Republic in connection with his efforts on behalf of the San Tan Mountains Regional Park. Ken Lawrence, Contract Administrator, was also mentioned in an article in the Arizona Republic and was instrumental in getting monies from the City of Chandler. These monies were due from special revenues under the contract for the Spreckels property. Mr. Scalzo presented Mr. Lawrence with a Maricopa County denim shirt as a Spot Award.

Director Scalzo updated the Commission on the Arizona Public Service (APS) siting issue near White Tank Mountain Regional Park. He indicated that a meeting was held on December 9, 2002 with APS and their consultant, URS. He stated that the proposed siting plan continues to have some impact on the White Tank Mountain Regional Park. He reported that he, Supervisor Wilson, and possibly other Supervisors, had submitted a letter to the Siting Commission,. Mr. Scalzo requested that Supervisor Wilson address the Commission on this subject.

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Supervisor Wilson indicated that meetings have been held with APS with regard to where the County would like, or not like, the power lines to be located. He explained that APS agreed not to run the power lines across the base of White Tank Mountains Regional Park but then turned the plan around so that the lines will go up the side of Loop 303 turning West on Olive and run straight to the park entrance.

Supervisor Wilson discussed the option of making Olive Avenue a thoroughfare to the park. He expressed a strong desire to keep the lines away from the park. He indicated that Supervisor Kunasek, Bill Scalzo and himself are writing letters to address the concerns of the County and requested the support of the Commission on this issue.

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK TRAIL PLAN

Item: Recommend or reject plan as presented for the director's approval – Bob Skaggs, Westside Trail Planner, Maricopa County Parks And Recreation Commission

Bob Skaggs presented the final draft of the Trail System Plan for the White Tank Mountain Regional Park to the Commission for adoption and recommendation to the Director. He indicated that a revision was made to the plan as a result of Commission Schneider's suggestion at the November 12th meeting that an emphasis be placed on the department's commitment to barrier free trails. This revision has been included on Page 5 under the Planning Criteria and Policies section. He also addressed an addition to the plan that will address the planning process. A brief section outlining the review and approval process of this plan will be added.

Commissioner Arndt thanked Mr. Skaggs for all the work he has done on this project and his efforts in reaching out to different groups to get input into the plan. He made a motion to approve the draft copy of the White Tank Trail System Plan with a motion to second by Commissioner Hamilton.

Director Scalzo reported that the appeal to the State Land Department regarding the appraisal value for the Goat Camp Trail acquisition has been rejected.

Commission Arndt inquired about how this, as well as the possible change in the State Land Department's mission, would affect the White Tank Trail Plan System.

Bob Skaggs responded that the plan had been written to include several options for Goat Camp Trail that could be pursued, depending on the circumstances described by Commissioner Arndt.

Director Scalzo also explained that the funds received through the State Park Heritage Fund must be expended according to a specific timeline or else the fund agreement would need to be adjusted to use the funds for another purpose on that trail. He indicated that the department would not be giving up the money entirely, but would be reusing it to complete other improvements on the White Tank trail.

The Parks Commission unanimously approved the Park Trail Plan.

PRESENTATIONS TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Item: Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and William C. Scalzo, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department. (A3200)

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Director Scalzo and members of the Board of Supervisors recognized the Commissioners for their service to the County and the department as members of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Director Scalzo and the respective Board members presented Certificates of appreciation to those members with less than ten years of service. Plaques were given to those members with ten years or more of service.

COMMISSIONS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Hamilton stated that it has been an honor, pleasure and privilege to represent Maricopa County and this body on the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA), as well as National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA). She indicated that she will continue to serve as a member on the Executive Committee of NRPA's Board of Trustees representing the citizens of the Pacific Southwest Regional United States.

Commissioner Hamilton also reported that one of the items she is working on is to acquire funding for projects involving youth and young people. She indicated that she would continue to work with the department to get additional funding for the Summer Recreation Program and the youth programs at the Desert Outdoor Center.

Commissioner Aster thanked department staff for their support and assistance throughout his term. He expressed his appreciation to the other Commissioners for their professionalism on this Commission. Mr. Aster stated it was a great experience for him to serve and thanked Supervisor Kunasek.

Commissioner Vasos indicated that he has been proud to be a member of this Commission and to assist in the preservation of parks for our grandchildren and the future. He highlighted several memorable events that stand out to him, including the 1986 Bond passage, the 1992 Cave Creek acquisition, the recent barrier free trail additions and the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area acquisition. Mr. Vasos stated that his goal has been to always protect the parks for enjoyment and from the invasion of private non-park usage. He expressed his displeasure with the recent 10-year temporary easement granted at Usery Mountain Recreation Area.

Chairman Lanford expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Board of Supervisors and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public came forward to comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

This joint meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lanford at 12:52 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Fulton Brock, Acting Chairman of the Board

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board